

CLAIMS LISTING:

Claims 1-33 are cancelled.

34. (Currently amended) An extension device configured to form an elongated, articulated, horizontally rotatable interconnection between a forward, prime mover section of a wheeled vehicle section and a rear, load-carrying section of the wheeled vehicle section, said device facilitating extension of the length of the vehicle and comprising:

an elongated rigid frame having a horizontal longitudinal axis about which said forward and rear vehicle sections can rotate relative to each other and extending between a front end connector that matingly engages with the forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section and a back end connector that matingly engages with the rear, load-carrying wheeled vehicle section, the elongated rigid frame holding the front and back end connectors in fixed, spaced relationship relative to each other; [[and]]

wherein at least one of said connectors is a pivot connector that enables a rotatable connection about said horizontal longitudinal axis, the extension device being adapted configured to and having sufficient strength to maintain the forward and the rear vehicle sections in longitudinally spaced apart relationship relative to each other, thus extending the length of the vehicle as compared to a non-extended configuration, while permitting the forward and the rear vehicle sections to pivot relative to each other about the horizontal longitudinal axis when the extension device is installed therebetween.

35. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 34, wherein at least one of said front end and said back end connectors is a sleeve configured to receive an insert member of a respectively connected one of the forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section and the rear, load-carrying wheeled vehicle section.

36. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 35, wherein said sleeve is cylindrically shaped.

37. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 36, wherein said pivot connector comprises said cylindrically shaped sleeve.

38. (Previously presented) The device as recited in claim 36, further comprising a fixed connector comprised by said cylindrically shaped sleeve.

39. (Previously presented) The device as recited in claim 38, wherein said fixed connector further comprises a fastener radially offset from said cylindrically shaped sleeve, said fastener being configured for fixed interconnection with one of the forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section and the rear, load-carrying wheeled vehicle section.

40. (Previously presented) The device as recited in claim 34, wherein said elongated rigid frame further comprises at least one stiffening girder arranged parallel to the horizontal longitudinal axis of the frame.

41. (Previously presented) The device as recited in claim 40, wherein said at least one stiffening girder comprises a pair of stiffening girders, each arranged parallel to the horizontal longitudinal axis of the frame.

42. (Previously presented) The device as recited in claim 34, wherein said elongated rigid frame further comprises a cardan shaft passageway therethrough which is arranged parallel to the horizontal longitudinal axis of the frame.

43. (Previously presented) The device as recited in claim 42, wherein said cardan shaft passageway further comprises a brake arrangement comprising one of a brake disk and a caliper assembly for braking an installed cardan shaft.

44. (Previously presented) The device as recited in claim 34, wherein said elongated rigid frame further comprises a plurality of rigid side walls forming a surrounding housing having an access aperture therethrough.

45. (Currently amended) An articulated, wheeled vehicle that has been extended from a non-extended configuration to an extended configuration, the articulated wheeled vehicle comprising:

a forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section articulatedly interconnected with a rear, load-carrying wheeled vehicle section in longitudinally spaced apart relationship to each other; and

an extension device installed between the forward and the rear vehicle sections so as to form an elongated, articulated, horizontally rotatable interconnection between said forward and rear vehicle sections; prime mover wheeled vehicle section and said rear, load-carrying wheeled vehicle section;

said extension device comprising an elongated rigid frame having a horizontal longitudinal axis about which said forward and rear vehicle sections can rotate relative to each other and extending between a front end connector matingly engaged with the forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section and a back end connector matingly engaged with the rear, load-carrying wheeled vehicle section, the elongated rigid frame holding the front and back end connectors in fixed, spaced relationship relative to each other, [[and]]

wherein at least one of said connectors is a pivot connector establishing a rotatable connection about said horizontal longitudinal axis of said frame, the extension device serving being configured to and having sufficient strength to maintain the vehicle in said extended configuration, with the forward and the rear vehicle sections in longitudinally spaced apart relationship relative to each other, while permitting the forward and the rear vehicle sections to pivot relative to each other about the horizontal longitudinal axis.

46. (Previously Presented) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 45, wherein at least one of said front end and said back end connectors is a sleeve insertibly receiving an insert member of a respectively connected one of the forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section and the rear, load-carrying wheeled vehicle section.

47. (Previously Presented) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 46, wherein said sleeve is cylindrically shaped.

48. (Previously Presented) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 47, wherein said pivot connector comprises said cylindrically shaped sleeve.

49. (Previously presented) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 47, further comprising a fixed connector comprised by said cylindrically shaped sleeve.

50. (Previously Presented) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 49, wherein said fixed connector further comprises a fastener radially offset from said cylindrically shaped sleeve, said fastener being fixedly interconnected with one of the forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section and the rear, load-carrying wheeled vehicle section.

51. (Previously presented) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 45, wherein said elongated rigid frame further comprises at least one stiffening girder arranged parallel to the horizontal longitudinal axis of the frame.

52. (Previously presented) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 51, wherein said at least one stiffening girder comprises a pair of stiffening girders, each arranged parallel to the horizontal longitudinal axis of the frame.

53. (Previously presented) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 45, wherein said elongated rigid frame further comprises a cardan shaft passageway therethrough which is arranged parallel to the horizontal longitudinal axis of the frame.

54. (Previously Presented) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 53, wherein said cardan shaft passageway further comprises a brake arrangement comprising one of a brake disk and a caliper assembly for braking an installed cardan shaft.

55. (Previously presented) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 45, wherein said elongated rigid frame further comprises a plurality of rigid side walls forming a surrounding housing having an access aperture therethrough.

56. (Currently amended) An articulated, wheeled dumper that has been extended from a non-extended configuration to an extended configuration, the articulated dumper comprising:

a forward, prime mover ~~wheeled~~ vehicle section articulatedly interconnected with a rear, wheeled[[,]] dumper section in longitudinally spaced apart relationship to each other; and

an extension device installed between the forward and the rear sections so as to form forming an elongated, articulated, horizontally rotatable interconnection between said forward and rear sections; ~~prime mover wheeled vehicle section and said rear, wheeled, dumper section;~~

said extension device comprising an elongated rigid frame having a horizontal longitudinal axis about which said forward and rear ~~vehicle~~ sections can rotate relative to each other and extending between a front end connector matingly engaged with the forward, ~~prime mover wheeled vehicle~~ section and a back end connector matingly engaged with the rear, ~~load-carrying wheeled vehicle~~ section, the elongated rigid frame holding the front and back end connectors in fixed, spaced relationship relative to each other, [[and]]

wherein at least one of said connectors is a pivot connector establishing a rotatable connection about said horizontal longitudinal axis of said frame, the extension device serving being configured to and having sufficient strength to maintain the dumper in said extended configuration, with the forward and the rear ~~vehicle~~ sections in longitudinally spaced apart relationship relative to each other, while permitting the forward and the rear ~~vehicle~~ sections to pivot relative to each other about the horizontal longitudinal axis of said frame.

57. (Previously Presented) The articulated vehicle as recited in claim 56, wherein at least one of said front end and said back end connectors is a sleeve insertibly receiving an insert member of a respectively connected one of the forward, prime mover wheeled vehicle section and the rear, wheeled, dumper section.